

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

---

THE ESTATE OF RICHARD BARD  
and DANA GERMAN-BUNTON, as  
administrator *ad-prosequendum*  
of THE ESTATE OF RICHARD  
BARD,

1:17-cv-01452-NLH-AMD

**MEMORANDUM OPINION & ORDER**

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF VINELAND POLICE  
OFFICER CHRISTOPHER PUGLISI,

Defendant.

---

**APPEARANCES:**

SOLOMON MORDECHAI RADNER  
EXCOLO LAW PLLC  
26700 LAHSER ROAD  
SUITE 401  
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033

CONRAD J. BENEDETTO  
LAW OFFICES OF CONRAD J. BENEDETTO  
1233 HADDONFIELD-BERLIN ROAD  
SUITE 1  
VOORHEES, NJ 08043

*On behalf of Plaintiffs*

A. MICHAEL BARKER  
TODD J. GELFAND  
BARKER, GELFAND & JAMES  
LINWOOD GREENE  
210 NEW ROAD  
SUITE 12  
LINWOOD, NJ 08221

*On behalf of Defendant*

**HILLMAN, District Judge**

WHEREAS, this matter concerns claims by Plaintiff, Dana German-Bunton, the mother of Richard Bard, the decedent, arising out of the shooting death of Bard by Defendant City of Vineland police officer Christopher Puglisi; and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff's third amended complaint asserts a claim of excessive force against Puglisi in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and New Jersey Civil Rights Act, N.J.S.A. 10:6-2(c) (Docket No. 51);<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, currently pending is Puglisi's motion for summary judgment (Docket No. 77); but

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2020, counsel for Plaintiff filed a motion to withdraw as Plaintiff's attorney in this matter (Docket No. 79); and

WHEREAS, in counsel's motion he relates, "Throughout litigation on this case, a significant breakdown of the attorney client relationship has arisen making withdrawal of the undersigned necessary." (Docket No. 79 at 2); and

WHEREAS, counsel's motion is set before the Magistrate Judge, and a telephonic hearing on the motion is scheduled for September 24, 2020 (Docket No. 80);

Therefore,

---

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed recitation of the procedural history of this case, see Docket No. 44.

IT IS on this 14th day of September, 2020

ORDERED that Defendant's motion for summary judgment [77] be, and the same hereby is, DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE; and it is further

ORDERED that Court will provide further direction regarding Defendant's summary judgment motion after the Magistrate Judge has resolved Plaintiff's counsel's motion to withdraw.

At Camden, New Jersey

s/ Noel L. Hillman  
NOEL L. HILLMAN, U.S.D.J.